



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

HEIKKILÄ et al

Serial No. 09/913,331

Atty. Ref.: 3952-36

Group:

National Phase of: PCT/FI00/00067

International Filing Date: 2 February 2000

Filed: August 13, 2001 Examiner:

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TREATING PULP

* * * * *

September 19, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above-identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following amended 1 through 16 claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

1. (Amended) A method of treating pulp, by which method pulp is discharged from a process apparatus and fed into a blow or storage tank, wherein the method comprises the steps of: feeding the pulp to an upper part of the tank and to a lower part of the tank depending on a consistency of the pulp being fed from said process apparatus in such a manner that pulp at a consistency below a certain predetermined consistency is discharged into said tank through the upper part of the tank and pulp at a consistency